

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 SSC-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 311355Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7973

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, DA

SUBJECT: MAJOR SHIFT IN DANISH DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS

1. FOLLOWING APPROVAL AT A CABINET MEETING OCT. 30, FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN ANNOUNCED THAT EIGEL JORGENSEN, AT PRESENT DANISH AMBASSADOR IN BONN, HAD BEEN SELECTED AS DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN SUCCESSION TO TORBEN RONNE WHO DIED THIS MONTH WHILE ACCOMPANYING THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE SOVIET UNION. IN THIS POSITION JORGENSEN WILL BE THE TOP CAREER OFFICER AND NO. 2 IN THE MINISTRY.

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2. TROELS OLDENBURG, AT PRESENT HEAD OF THE POLITICAL

DEPARTMENT IN THE MINISTRY (AND FORMER AMBASSADOR IN PEKING), HAS BEEN SELECTED TO REPLACE JORGENSEN IN BONN. IN TURN, OLDENBURG WILL BE REPLACED BY OTTO BORCH, NOW DENMARK'S UN REPRESENTATIVE. BORCH IS EXPECTED TO BE SUCCEEDED IN NEW YORK BY HANS TABOR, NOW AMBASSADOR IN ROME, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THE UN POSITION.

3. IN ANNOUNCING THESE CHANGES, ANDERSEN SAID THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL TO INFORM HIM OF THE BACKGROUND OF JORGENSEN'S WITHDRAWAL SINCE THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN IN BONN ONLY SINCE JANUARY (AND HIS PREDECESSOR HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN AFTER A SIMILARLY SHORT STAY). THE CHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE NEW YEAR.

4. COMMENT: EIGEL JORGENSEN'S SELECTION HAD BEEN PREDICTED. AT 52, HE HAS HAD A SUCCESSFUL CAREER WHICH, AFTER ASSIGNMENTS IN WASHINGTON (1953 - 1956) AND PARIS NATO, INCLUDED 7 YEARS AS PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY ASSISTANT IN THE PRIMIN'S OFFICE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT IN BONN. HE WAS REPORTEDLY HIGHLY REGARDED BOTH BY THE RADICAL PRIMIN BAUNSGAARD AND BY THE SOCIALIST PRIMIN KRAG. HE HAS ALWAYS SHOWN HIMSELF OPEN AND FRIENDLY IN HIS DEALINGS WITH AMERICANS, AND RECALLS HAPPILY HIS DAYS IN WASHINGTON (BONN MAY WISH TO COMMENT FURTHER).

5. OLDENBURG HAS BEEN THE WORK HORSE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HAS BEEN HEAVILY BURDENED SINCE RONNE'S DEATH. BEFORE THE BONN ANNOUNCEMENT HE HAD BEEN SLATED TO BE THE NEXT DANISH AMBASSADOR IN OSLO. IN ANY CASE, OLDENBURG WILL REMAIN IN HIS PRESENT POSITION AS LONG AS THE DANES ARE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, SINCE HE IS CURRENTLY CHARIMAN OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE NINE. DESPITE A TENDENCY TO STUTTER, HE IS WELL REGARDED FOR HIS ABILITY AND DIPLOMATIC SKILL, AND IS SAID TO BE CLOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN. CROWE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COPENH02710
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973103/aaaaabuy.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR SHIFT IN DANISH DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, DA, GE, (JORGENSEN, EIGEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005